

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4097
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2002
CELLULAR PHONES TO STAFF IN MOVING TRAINS
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Railways propose to give cellular phones to the staff and introduce public cell phones system in the running trains;
- (b) whether handicapped youth have applied for permission to operate cell-phones for the benefit of passengers;
- (c) whether the cell phones system would also make the travelling in trains more safe from thefts and accidents; and
- (d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to introduce the use of public cell phones in all the running trains in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS ~~AND~~ MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O.RAJAGOPAL)

- (a): There is no proposal yet for giving cellular phones to the staff. Cellular phone services have been provided on some trains on experimental basis for use of passengers.
- (b): The offers were called through open tenders from cellular phone operators having licences to operate in the particular region and these licence holders only were eligible to apply for the same.
- (c)&(d): At present continuous cellular coverage is not available along the Railway track and as such it may not be possible to use cellular phones for this purpose.